

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 M-02 SS-20 NSC-07 SCI-06 /056 W

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R 101455Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5818

INFO USUN NEW YORK 834

UNCLAS CARACAS 8886

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT: UNITED STATES DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

REF: STATE 190989

1. HAVING JUST EXPERIENCE THE TEN-WEEK CARACAS LOS CONFERENCE, THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN HISTORY AND AT WHICH THE US DELEGATION WAS CONSPICUOUS BY ITS GREAT SIZE, THIS EMBASSY WELCOMES THE GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN THE SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM OF AUGUST 21 QUOTED REFTEL.

2. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE REASONS FOR THE SIZE OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE LOS CONFERENCE, WE NOTED THAT THE DELEGATION INCLUDED A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE PRESENCE WAS NOT INDISPENSABLE TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE ENORMOUS SIZE OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE RECENT LOS CONFERENCE REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM THIS EMBASSY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO BUDGET AND FISCAL (INCLUDING PROCESSING A LARGE AMOUNT OF VOUCHERS, ADVANCE AND OVERTIME PAYMENTS), PERSONNEL, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TRAVEL AND MOTOR POOL WORK.

3. IN LIGHT OF ITS RECENT EXPERIENCE, THIS EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT CONFERENCE SUPPORT PERSONNEL IN FUTURE INCLUDE A DISBURSING OFFICER, BUT THAT A CLOSE LOOK BE TAKEN AT ALL OTHER PERSONNEL WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THEIR NUMBERS WHICH WOULD REDUCE SALARIES PER DIEM, OVERTIME AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES CONSIDERABLE.

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